May 6, 2022

Theodore Payne Foundation’s Wild Flower Hotline is made possible by donations, and memberships. Please support the Hotline today!

The Theodore Payne Wild Flower Hotline offers free weekly on-line and recorded updates on the best locations for viewing spring wild flowers in Southern and Central California. All locations are on easily accessible public lands and range from urban to wild, distant to right here in L.A.

At Placerita Canyon Nature Center in Newhall, the Canyon an Ecology trails are suggested pathways for seeing a variety of colorful, flowering native plants. Chaparral flowering shrubs include the creamy-white flower clusters of chaparral yucca (*Herperoyucca whipplei*), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*), Southern honeysuckle (*Lonicera subspicata*), holly-leaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*) and chamise (*Adenostema fasciculatum*). California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), has tiny, subtle pink flowers loved by butterflies. Black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolium*), and woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*) are dressed in lavender and purple blossoms. Heart-leaf bush penstemon (*Keckiella cordifolia*) stands out from the others with red flowers frequented by hummingbirds. Blooming perennials are a riot of gold and red and include sticky monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), deerweed (*Acmispon glabrata*), scarlet bugler (*Penstemon centranthifolius*), golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*), and cobweb thistle (*Cirsium occidentale*). Annuals that are showy now but will go to seed soon include, yellow pincushion, (*Chaenactis glabriuscula*), cliff asters (*Malacothrix saxitalis*), Southern sun cups (*Camissiopsis* sp.), California everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium californica*) and the three Clarkia sisters—elegant clarkia, wine-cup and farewell-to-spring clarkias (*Clarkia unguiculata*, *C. purpurea*, *C. amonea*).

Along the Ridgeline Trail at Nicholas Flat in the Santa Monica Mountains you will be rewarded with great views of the Channel Islands and Catalina. Significant numbers of flowers on the trail include golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*), deerweed (*Acmispon glabrata*), morning glory (*Calystegia ssp. intermedia*), purple nightshade (*Solanum parishii*), caterpillar phacelia (*Phacelia cicutaria*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), larkspur (*Delphinium* sp.), Catalina mariposa lily (*Calochortus catalinae*), hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*), paintbrush (*Castilleja* sp.), and Parry's phacelia (*Phacelia parishii*). In fewer numbers and still flowering is purple clarkia (*Clarkia purpurea*), sticky phacelia (*Phacelia glandulifera*), owl's clover (*Castilleja exerta*), whispering bells

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(Emmenanthe penduliflora), and tidy tips (Layia platyglossa). Large patches of scarlet bugler (Penstemon centranthifolius) occupy the hillsides. The pond was full and there are tadpoles on the banks busy transitioning to frog status.

Driving north along State Route 371 in Riverside County, a sunny yellow field of desert dandelion (Malacothrix glabrata) surprises passersby immediately east of the Cahuilla Casino. There is a dirt road one can take opposite Cary Road, to see the flowers without being bothered by highway traffic. Trek into the field to look at them and the intensity of color from the flowers almost hurts your eyes. It is simply stunning! There were also some owl's clover (Castilleja sp.) and California sun cup (Camissonia sp.) there as well. Another highlight in that region is the thistle sage (Salvia carduacea) west of Anza. The hillside has purple patches from large plants in bloom. Further north, turn west onto Hwy 74. Near the Kenworthy Fire Station and just east of Morris Ranch Road, a trail that paralleling the creek has many Munz's mariposa lily (Calochortus palmeri ssp. munzii) in full bloom. Also notice white flowering serviceberry (Amelanchier utahensis), desert almond (Prunus fasciculatus), tidy tips (Layia platyglossa) and narrow pod locoweed (Astragalus filipes), all in full bloom. A few plants of flowering calico cactus (Echinocereus engelmannii var. munzii) can be found as well.

The Environmental Nature Center in Newport Beach is transitioning to late spring colors. Resident plants in the desert section of the nature center display sunny pastel colors like golden-flowered Indian mallow (Abutilon palmeri), pink desert fairy duster (Calliandra eriophylla), yellow-flowered Coast cholla (Cylindropuntia prolifera), desert mallow (Sphaeralcea ambigua) and Baja desert rose (Rosa minutifolia). Visitors can also see flowering natives that reside in natural habitats along the coast. Colors represented in these species include yellow bush sunflower (Encelia californica), red monkeyflower (Diplacus puniceus), blue Pacific aster (Symphyotrichum chinese), thick-leaved Yerba Santa (Eriodictyon crassifolium) and buckwheat (Eriogonum fasciculatum). Flowering trees and shrubs include lemonade berry (Rhus integrifolia), Cleveland sage (Salvia clevelandii), Coast live oak (Quercus agrifolia) and black walnut (Juglans californica). Orange poppies (Eschscholzia californica) are the found everywhere in the garden.

Throughout the California Botanic Garden in Claremont, the Chaparral yucca (Hesperoyucca whipplei) just started blooming and looks awesome right now! Other new
blooms this week include cobweb thistle (*Cirsium occidentale*), many-flowered linanthus (*Leptosiphon floribundus*), and Colorado four o'clock (*Mirabilis multiflora*). Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*), hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus engelmannii*), and several prickly pears (*Opuntia sp.*) are blooming in the desert garden. The large, colorful clusters of flowers on the desert willows (*Chilopsis linearis*) are bursting into bloom. Some of the bold Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*) can also be found scattered in the desert garden. Other exciting new blooms include California buckeye, (*Aesculus californica*) growing on the mesa. The red-flowered, heart leaved keckiella (*Keckiella cordifolia*) is also occupying some prime real estate on the mesa under the Coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*).

**Many-flowered linanthus (*Leptosiphon floribundus*), cobweb thistle (*Cirsium occidentale*), Chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*). Photos courtesy of California Botanic Garden.**

Spring isn’t slowing down at the Elizabeth Learning Center habitat gardens. The desert garden includes thistle sage (*Salvia carduacea*), desert senna (*Senna armata*), Coves’ cassia (*Senna covesii*), catclaw (*Senegalia greggii*), sweet bush (*Bebbia juncea*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), showy penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*), desert lavender (*Condea emoryi*), apricot mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*), brittle bush (*Encelia farinosa*), wishbone bush (*Mirabilis laevis var. villosa*), climbing milkweed (*Funastrum cynanchoides var. hartwegii*), silver puffs (*Uropappus lindleyi*) and bird’s eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*). The vernal pool habitat contains thread leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*), clustered tarweed (*Deinandra fasciculata*), five spot (*Nemophila maculata*), california sage (*Salvia californica*), chaparral prickly pear (*Opuntia oricola*), coastal cholla (*Cylindropuntia prolifera*), tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), golden spined cereus (*Bergerocactus emoryi*), San Diego ceanothus (*Ceanothus cyaneus*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), San Diego mesa mint (*Pogogyne abramsii*), and Orcutt's quillwort (*Isoetes orcuttii*). Additional species in the chaparral garden include Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*), blue paloverde (*Parkinsonia florida*), woolly paintbrush (*Castilleja foliolosa*), calico monkeyflower (*Diplacus pictus*), fairy lantern (*Calochortus albus*), splendid mariposa lily (*Calochortus splendidus*), Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*), southern mountain misery (*Chamaebatia australis*), chaparral nightshade (*Solananum xanti*), pink fairy duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), California rose (*Rosa californica*), sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*) and Santa Cruz Island buckwheat (*Eriogonum arborescens*). Elizabeth Learning Center is located off Elizabeth Street between Atlantic and Wilcox Avenues in Cudahy. Most gardens can be seen from the sidewalk in front of the school without having to check in at the Main Office.
San Diego ceanothus (*Ceanothus cyaneus*), Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*), Photos by George Nanoski.

That’s it for this week. Look for our next report on **Friday, May 13th** and check back each week for the most up to date information on southland central California wildflowers.

**NATIVE PLANT AND WILD FLOWER EVENTS**

**THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION**

- Many education classes on gardening with natives are being offered at the Theodore Payne Foundation this month. Find more information and registration details at [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org).

**PLACERITA CANYON NATURE CENTER**

**Blooms of the Season Hikes**
4th Saturday of each month at 9:30, (May 28)
Meet at the front steps of the Nature Center.
**Open House is May 14 from 10-2**
**Visit** [Placerita Canyon Nature Center](http://placeritanaturecenter.org)